

NEW YORK POST

MAR 4 1964

## Mint New Jet Was Built With CIA Funds

Washington, March 4 (AP)—Development of the A11, the new 2,000-mph jet plane, was so secret that only a few members of Congress knew about it.

This indicates the plane was developed with Central Intelligence Agency funds rather than the Defense Dept's. For while a number of Congressional committees are privy to the Pentagon's activities, only a few Senators and Representatives are on the committee overseeing the CIA.

It means that the House, in a recent debate on defense spending, did not have full information at hand when it overruled Defense Secretary McNamara and approved an extra \$40,000,000 for research on an improved manned interceptor plane.

Existence of the plane was announced by President Johnson at his news conference Saturday. He said the planes, which can operate at higher than 70,000 feet, were being tested "to determine their capabilities as long-range interceptors."

Johnson noted that several key Congress members had been informed about the plane's development.

One member of the House, who knew about the A11 for many months, described its development as the best kept American secret since development of the atomic bomb in World War II.

In the House Armed Services Committee, for example, only a few members are believed to have known about the plane's secret development.

An informed source said that these few were informed because they have a special assignment that allows them to receive such information.